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AN APPEAL TO BUSINESS MEN

PROVIDE WORK NOW FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

RELATION OF NATIONAL PROSPERITY TO
CITY PLANNING

BUSINESS AND THE CHICAGO PLAN

By

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Provide Work Now for the Unemployed

"To provide jobs for the unemployed, start public works immediately." That is the net result of the many conferences on the unemployment problem that have been held in America and abroad. So serious is the situation that President Harding has urged every community to do its part in supplying work by undertaking public improvements without delay.

The National Conference on Unemployment, called by President Harding, in its Emergency Relief Program, urges "all authorities to expedite the construction of public works," and points out that "public construction is better than relief."

Chicago Should Provide Jobs Now

Ever since 1917 the Chicago Plan Commission has foreseen the present situation and has urged the people to "Prepare in War for Peace." Consequently, the city has ready now a carefully worked out plan of public improvements, known as the Plan of Chicago, definite in all its essentials, economically sound, practical, and of immeasurable benefit to the entire city and every citizen.

Much has already been accomplished on the Plan, but Chicago cannot afford to rest upon its record.

Advantage of Pushing Work Now

Patriotism, community pride, and self-interest all urge that the remaining features of the Plan should be pressed forward during the present unemployment emergency.

Business and labor will be the direct beneficiaries in the widest and largest possible degree. The labor question is a vital issue. Our supreme immediate duty is to create every possible opportunity for the employment of labor. The laboring man is entitled not only to a living wage, but to a wage which will enable him to live comfortably, become a thrifty citizen, and give his children educational opportunities. The way to do this is to assure steady employment; and employer and employee should co-operate in devising means to this end. Then the question of accepting charity, so distasteful to every working man, will never disturb his mind.

The Way to Restore Prosperity

The future of democracy lies in co-operation, and above all, co-operation between capital and labor. If capital and labor march forward shoulder to shoulder, trusting one another, and with common sense

governing their deliberations and actions, the way is open for a speedy readjustment of present unsettled conditions, and the restoration of peace, plenty, and prosperity. Comprehensive activity in carrying out public improvements will avert bread lines, soup houses, and similar deplorable social phenomena, that otherwise may be expected to occur.

Chicago Plan improvements are profitable investments, paying dividends of prosperity, contentment, and happiness. Money spent to stabilize our government, protect our economic interest, and advance the general welfare is not extravagance but true economy.

Progress of Chicago Demands Action

Self-interest demands haste in carrying out the Plan of Chicago. Cities are a product of business. They are created by business, exist for business, and die when business departs. The country can exist on agriculture and trade; but commerce, transportation, and business necessitate a city. Thus the very existence of a city depends upon its facilities for doing business.

Competing American cities are ceaseless in their endeavors to capture the business that now belongs to Chicago. Secure it they will, unless the business men of Chicago awake, and take an aggressive interest in the projects necessary for their present and future welfare.

What Chicago Must Do

If Chicago is to maintain its present commercial supremacy, it must provide unequalled facilities for the easy, quick, and economical transaction of business. It must provide freight terminals, harbors, postal facilities, and other improvements so good that no other city can offer better. It must provide adequate transportation facilities; wide, direct, and convenient streets; suitable zones for business, industry, manufacturing, and residence; and improvements which will adequately provide for the health, happiness, and prosperity of all the people.

What Plan of Chicago Does

The Plan of Chicago will promote trade by supplying direct and easy ways for the extension and development of commerce. It will foster city growth by making it easier and cheaper to conduct all classes of business. It will insure all property values by preventing the many evils of haphazard building. It will make every citizen a more efficient worker by saving time and money in the transit of goods and people. Above all, the Plan of Chicago will assure to the city, citizens sound in body, mind, and morals.

Whole-souled, united, and enthusiastic action will give Chicago what it must have. Then Chicago will stop slipping; it will be in a position to hold its own with other cities of first rank. It will be a city to boast of; to live in; to breathe in; to thrive in; sought by thousands of strangers daily—a world-famed mecca where tourists will linger and

spend their money. It has been well said: "A tourist leaves his money behind in the city he visits, and takes away with him nothing which makes the city any poorer."

Welfare of People Calls for Immediate Action

Patriotism demands progress on these huge public betterments because city building is man building. The men and women of America are the nation's greatest asset. More than half of them live in cities, and the physique of the city dweller is deteriorating. Thus national patriotism urges the physical improvement of the places where 52% of our American citizens dwell.

It is common knowledge that fully 75% of the young men examined for military service in the recent war before the bars were let down were found to be unfit. What does this mean, in light of the fact that the greatness, the prosperity, and the stability of a nation absolutely depend upon the health and the physical vigor of its people?

Community Pride Urges Action

Community pride demands that Chicago Plan projects be advanced without a let-up. The "I WILL" spirit of Chicago is known around the world. For ten years Chicago has been telling the nation I WILL in connection with the Plan of Chicago. Civic pride demands that continuous action make good our boast.

The Challenge of The Past

The task of carrying out the Plan of Chicago now is no greater than were the six herculean accomplishments that heralded the name of Chicago around the world in the past.

If the citizens of the early 50's could raise the entire city fourteen feet to provide drainage, the citizens of 1921 can carry out the Plan of Chicago.

If the citizens of 1869 could create our present magnificent park and boulevard system with conditions as they then were, our increased wealth, accumulated and enlarged experience, wider vision, and unflagging enterprise make it possible for us to do even better.

If Chicago could arise from the fire of 1871 as it did, it can rise from its present haphazard, formless, "overgrown village" condition and become a real metropolitan city.

If Chicago in 1893 could astonish the world with the unequalled World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago today can astonish it again with the unparalleled development proposed in the Plan of Chicago.

If the citizens of 1900 could build the \$65,000,000 drainage canal to purify our drinking water and protect the public health, the people today can achieve the humanitarian projects in our great city plan.

If, in 1909, the membership of The Commercial Club, [organized 1877] and the Merchants Club [organized 1896], united in 1907 and composed of one hundred of the leading business men of Chicago, had the foresight to have the Plan of Chicago—recognized to be a plan for the whole city and all of its people—prepared under its direction and at its own expense by the world-renowned city planner, the late Daniel H. Burnham, and Edward H. Bennett (who continues to serve as consultant of the Chicago Plan Commission), and edited by Charles Moore; and if The Commercial Club then had the unprecedented public spirit to present the Plan as a gift to the City of Chicago, and, furthermore, has proven its faith in the Plan by contributions of \$305,049.99 in addition to the \$190,143.72 appropriated to the Chicago Plan Commission by the Busse, Harrison, and Thompson administrations; the community at large today, and future administrations, can and will see this all-inclusive Plan through to completion.

Only One Thing is Lacking

We have the vision; we have the men; we have the spirit; we have the money. And, thanks to The Commercial Club of Chicago, we have the Plan. All that is lacking is an insistent, unified public demand for action in carrying the Plan out.

Lincoln said: "Public sentiment is everything; with it nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed."

Citizens of Chicago: picture to yourselves the benefits to come from an early completion of the work already under way and proposed by the Chicago Plan Commission. Become enthusiastically devoted to its accomplishment, remembering Emerson's statement: "Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm."

What the Result Will Be

Thus progress will prevent retrogression; the well-being of the people will be assured; the needs of commerce and industry will be provided for; and the happiness of the people will be sustained.

Thus will be brought about a better understanding between employer and employee; and a people animated by hope; wholesome in temperament; loyal in spirit; morally better and physically stronger; a people not only contented but happy.

Thus will Chicago do its full share in solving the national unemployment problem and in aiding, maintaining, and fostering the best interests of the American people.

With these undeniable truths before us, let our watchword be "Forward" with irresistible force. Then grip and grit, with vim and vigor as the motive power, will lead to a glorious victory in the benefits of which all will share.

Relation of National Prosperity to City Planning

The question might naturally arise, "What has the Chicago Plan Commission to do with national prosperity? Why should the Commission urge the business men of Chicago to interest themselves in national conservation, the elimination of waste, and the employment of foresight?" A moment's thought will give the answer. It is for the very good reason that city planning depends upon national prosperity. Without national prosperity, cities cannot be prosperous, and without prosperous cities, city planning cannot go forward.

Waste Today—Want Tomorrow

Business has for its very foundation the natural resources of a country. The wasteful use of such resources places an unnecessary hardship upon every form of business. Thus, every Chicago business man should take an active interest in the problem of conservation, if for no other reason than that of self-interest in safeguarding his own business affairs. Continual complaining about what has been done, or what has not been done will not avail. The only way to meet the situation fully is to create a public sentiment so powerful and so effective that it will condemn wastefulness, carelessness, and short-sightedness, and demand foresight, wise economy, and conservation.

Unheeded S. O. S. Signals

For decades, S. O. S. signals, warning of impending economic and social dangers, have been flashed throughout the United States. Have they been heeded? No. Why not? Because lack of foresight in matters of general concern is a prevailing American failing. That is why we are never prepared for an emergency. That is why we never act decisively until a disaster has occurred, or an economic situation has arisen so grave that it makes the foundation of our commercial and industrial structure totter. Then we act feverishly; without sufficient knowledge of the cause that produced the effect; and without time enough to work out adequate plans. This results in hasty, superficial, and ineffective remedial measures. What a contrast to private business efficiency !

Value of Foresight

Foresight would have prevented the Dayton Flood of 1913, which cost \$163,000,000. Foresight would have saved the lives of 124,000 animals and the loss of \$6,000,000 because of the foot-and-mouth disease during 1914. Foresight would have prevented the Galveston disaster in 1900, which caused a loss of 6,000 lives and \$12,000,000 property damage.

Other Examples

Lack of foresight in 1904 was responsible for the sinking of the

steamer "Slocum" in New York harbor, exacting a toll of 958 lives. Foresight would have prevented the "Eastland" calamity in the Chicago River in 1915, and the Iroquois Theatre catastrophe in 1903, with losses of 812 and 600 lives respectively, disasters which shocked the country—disasters doubly shocking because preventable. Despite these and numerous similar cases, no one will deny the fact that we have not profited proportionately by experience, and that today we are as short-sighted, as superficial, and as careless as we ever were.

Public Demand Necessary

How soon will the time come when necessary new laws to prevent such occurrences will be enacted, and the laws on the statute books be continuously and rigidly—not spasmodically—enforced against one and all? Apparently not until the anger of the public is aroused and action is demanded. Until then we must continue to suffer great losses of life and destruction of property. Knowing this to be true, are we willing to remain abettors of criminal carelessness so far-reaching in its consequences?

Our Shameful Waste

But this is not all. In the economic field we are wasteful to an unheard-of degree. Dr. Arthur D. Little, a prominent industrial chemist, in an address on "Energy: Its Sources and Future Possibilities," said:

"Natural gas has been aptly designated 'nature's bonus to America.' One-tenth of our population is wholly dependent upon it for lighting, cooking, and heating, but even so, its larger uses are industrial uses. It is a waning resource. *It has been wasted shamefully.* In volume, waste has run parallel with use, and often outstripped it. In 1917 we used about 800,000,000,000 cubic feet, which was three-fourths of all gas sold in the country. We also wasted 100,000,000,000 cubic feet, and, with it, much gasoline. The supply is running out and our 1920 production was below 650,000,000,000."

Petroleum Fast Vanishing

In speaking of petroleum, Dr. Little said that the United States now produces about 70% of the world's supply, and that, as in the case of natural gas, our reserves are rapidly nearing depletion, so that we can hardly maintain our present rate of production for more than 20 years. We have wasted more than we have used. Our 260,000 producing wells leave more than half the oil underground, and less than one-half of what is taken out reaches the pipe line. He says further:

"We are now thought to have 7,000,000,000 barrels remaining, from which we are now drawing 400,000,000 barrels per year, with the consumption of oil rapidly rising. Guesses at the remaining world's supply range from 43,000,000,000 to 60,000,000,000 barrels."

Do not these figures prove that within a short time we shall revert from sellers to purchasers of oil?

Criminal Waste of Coal

Dr. Little's deduction is that coal must remain for generations our

chief source of energy. In this field, too, there has been, and now is, what has been fittingly termed an "orgy of waste." Every stack belching forth black smoke shows a waste of units of heat. Every unit of heat costs money. With sufficient boiler capacity, adequate smokestacks, properly regulated drafts, grate surfaces scientifically figured out, and good firemen, untold millions can be saved annually in the consumption of coal. Thus will waste be checked, and the costly, health-sapping smoke nuisance abated.

Waste Everywhere

Having been so prosperous, and believing our natural resources inexhaustible, we always take the road of least resistance. Wood, suitable for fuel, is allowed to rot because it is easier to buy cordwood. Iron, for want of a coat of paint which anyone could apply, is allowed to rust. Machinery and vehicles of all kinds, which ordinary sheds would protect from the attacks of the elements, are allowed to deteriorate.

Waste on the Farm

Through the Department of Agriculture of the Federal Government and through the agricultural departments of state universities, the farmer has been given the opportunity to learn the value of intensive farming, and how to fertilize and plant intelligently. All required information is his for the asking, and, in fact, in some states competent men are employed to visit and assist him in applying on the farm, for his own benefit, the best-known practical and scientific methods of increasing soil productivity. Why do so few take advantage of these opportunities? The value of rotating crops and allowing part of the land to lie fallow is well known. Then why do not farmers more generally avail themselves of these simple methods of maintaining and increasing fertility?

Old-fashioned methods of farming have exploited our farm lands. A generation ago a farmer could abandon his farm in the old-settled part of the country and set out in search of new and better land. With the increase of population he can do this no longer. His alternative is to husband the agricultural resources by the substitution of new-fashioned methods for old. The immediate results of the new methods will show in heightened productivity; over the country at large, we, and those who come after us will see our agricultural domain saved.

Do we not realize at all the prime importance of restoring to fertility millions upon millions of acres of exhausted farm land? Do we sufficiently realize that we are fast becoming an industrial, rather than an agricultural nation; and that if we fail to maintain and increase the productivity of our farms we shall soon be compelled to import not only wood and oil, but also agricultural products?

Knowledge Without Action

We know the economic importance of the development and use of waterway, highway, and rail transportation, and the necessity of im-

mediately evolving a comprehensive, carefully worked out, country-wide plan. But how far have we progressed?

We know, also, that not to reclaim our vast arid and inundated lands for intensive development is an inexcusable economic waste. But how much have we done in that direction? We know that reforestation is of vital importance. But what have we done to promote it?

Need for Reforestation

Recently it was stated that more than one-third of our pulp-wood comes from Canada, which means an outflow of money. If we had checked wanton waste, and, at the proper time, had made provision for reforestation, this could have been averted.

The original forests of the United States, it is said, consisted of 822,000,000 acres. Cutting, cultivation, and burning have reduced this to 157,000,000 acres. Sixty per cent of the original timber is gone and the present consumption is five times greater than the production.

Enormous Annual Loss

It has been estimated that the value of timber destroyed by fire during the last five years amounts to \$85,700,000. This huge sum could have been saved by fire protection, but that is only a part of the total value lost.

These conflagrations, according to the United States Forest Service, cover 56,488,000 acres, an area greater than that of both Ohio and Pennsylvania, and destroy more than 2,000,000,000 feet of lumber every year. "American Forestry" says:

"Without wood there can be no agriculture, no manufacture, no commerce. Forest fires destroy life and property, drive away animal life, cause floods and drought, and make waste the playgrounds of the people."

The Incredible Crime

President Harding made the startling statement in his "Prevention Day Proclamation" of September 27, 1921, that the loss in buildings, foodstuffs, and other forms of created wealth amounted to \$500,000,000 in 1920, and to \$1,416,875,000 during the previous five years; also that annually 15,000 human beings, most of them women and children, lose their lives by fire. These lives are sacrificed on the altar of American criminal carelessness, laxity in enforcing existing building regulations, and short-sightedness in not amplifying preventive measures.

Is not this indefensible and appalling? It is now the duty of every American citizen to insist upon comprehensive, constructive, and drastic remedial measures, and the election to office of men who will heed his commands. Educational methods should be employed at once to acquaint our people with the facts. Knowledge of the facts will arouse them to demand action.

Headed Toward Destruction

We need speak only of the essentials of our national prosperity, i. e., agriculture, fuel, timber, and transportation, to prove the assertion that we are the most wasteful people on earth. Our abundant natural resources will not save us forever. We are living on our capital. Our resources are rapidly diminishing. We must appreciate beyond peradventure that our woeful lack of foresight, our extravagance, our wastefulness, and our superficiality will lead to disaster unless we profit by our experience and the experience of other countries.

Unless we immediately solve these problems in a broad, intelligent, and patriotic way, we cannot remain prosperous, nor can we hope to secure our share of the world's business.

Relation to the Plan of Chicago

Chicago is carrying out its great city plan with commendable zeal. But, as already stated, the very foundation upon which the Plan rests is the prosperity of the city; and this in turn depends upon the welfare of the nation. Hence, if the Plan of Chicago is to fulfill its highest usefulness it is time that our business men should safeguard their own interests and the city's welfare by devoting constant, intelligent, and active attention to national affairs.

Each citizen should become a center of influence, spreading conviction, and aiding to form a concrete, irresistible public sentiment for national conservation, saving, foresight, the overcoming of carelessness, and the elimination of waste.

“‘Today is that tomorrow of which yesterday we hoped so much.’ If tomorrow we would not again be disappointed we must act today.”

"The Plan of Chicago is not only a Commercial Club project, but it is also in every sense a commercial project, for the very foundation and aim of the whole idea is to develop the enduring prosperity of Chicago; and, in order to do that, all the elements which go to make up a great city must be considered, just as all exalted characters must be well-rounded men, men who are developed on all sides of their character, physically, mentally, morally and spiritually. And so large cities, if they wish to be great, must develop on all sides; must develop their commerce, their health, their beauty and their morals. This plan means all that to Chicago; and if the plan is carried out, it will give us a city in which the people, rich and poor, will prosper, and in which everybody will desire to live."

From an address to The Commercial Club of Chicago by President John V. Farwell, January 25, 1908.

Business and the Chicago Plan

"Business and the Chicago Plan" is the third article of a series. The first, entitled "Provide Work Now for the Unemployed," showed the advantage of pushing work now on all possible needed public improvements, to give work to the unemployed and to aid in restoring prosperity. The second, entitled "Relation of National Prosperity to City Planning," undertook to prove that city planning depends upon national prosperity, brought about by the conservation of natural resources, and pointed out the importance of the elimination of waste today in order to prevent want tomorrow. This article, the last of the three, treats of the intimate relation between business and the Chicago Plan.

Factors in City Growth

City growth at the beginning depends largely upon location, natural advantages, and the energy of its people. As development progresses, however, there always comes a time when these elements alone will not enable a city to maintain the rank it has gained. When the growth of a city's population outdistances its growth in built-up area, congestion results.

Congestion creates conditions that undermine health, foster vice and crime, and decrease the efficiency of workers. Such conditions, common to all large cities, not only place a heavy burden upon the taxpayers, but also produce an incalculable economic loss to business. Thus it becomes imperative that in their own interests the business men of a city should take steps to relieve overcrowding and to provide ample facilities for the transaction of business and the movement of people and goods to and fro with ease and economy.

City Planning is Greatest Issue

For the past eleven years the Chicago Plan Commission has asserted that city planning is the greatest issue confronting the American people.

Why? Because the impairment of the physique of city dwellers is very marked; because more than one-half of the American people are city dwellers; and because what these millions of people are, and what their descendants will be, in mental and bodily vigor, largely depends upon the physical development of our cities.

Chicago Plan Proposals

Therefore the Plan of Chicago proposes the reclamation, for the use of all the people, of the beautiful, health-giving lake front, where bathing beaches, picnic grounds, baseball fields, golf courses, a lagoon for rowing and other aquatic sports, and all sorts of outdoor games can be provided on a large scale. The Chicago Plan also suggests small playgrounds and small parks in the congested districts, more large parks; and the acquisition of approximately 35,000 acres of forest preserves to be used as country playgrounds for both young and old.

Congestion breeds vice, crime, and disease. There is a direct relation between crowding and disease and crime. It is cheaper to help people live decently in freedom than idly in jail, or suffering in hospitals. Parks are better investments than cemeteries. Slums must be wiped out and in their stead there must be created districts made healthful by sunshine; made invigorating by fresh air; and made pleasant by places of recreation.

Planning and Zoning are Interdependent

The Chicago Plan Commission has maintained that city planning and zoning are interdependent and should be developed concurrently. Mr. Edward H. Bennett, the Consultant of the Chicago Plan Commission and a zoning expert, among other things says:

"As city planning includes the layout and control of everything of a public nature, including streets, blocks, parks, public buildings, transportation and terminal systems, so it must include the control of development of private property.

"The realization of this is responsible in part for the movement on foot to zone Chicago. The restriction of certain classes of buildings to certain sections of the city is essential.

"The striking examples in our larger cities of the decline of property values, due to the invasion of residential districts by industry, and of retail business districts by loft buildings and light industry, are only too well known. It is obvious that the zoning of business must go hand in hand with the layout of thoroughfares which are to carry the street car lines; that the street layout which is suitable for business is not by any means good for residential occupancy, nor is that which is suitable for industry suitable for business or residential occupancy."

How to Reduce Taxes

The heavy burden resulting from haphazard city growth, must, in the end, be borne by the taxpayer. Zoning will enable the authorities to make improvements intelligently and economically, based upon the requirements of the different districts established. Of necessity, not knowing how districts may develop, improvements are now made which in a short time may be unadapted to changed circumstances and altered trend of growth. Such improvements are often either inadequate or wasteful.

City planning and zoning concurrently developed will mean great economy. This, it is manifest, means a great saving in taxes.

Valuable to Citizens and Business Interests

It is impossible to go into the details of what such a concurrent development will mean in improving the standard of our living conditions, so important in many congested districts; in stabilizing and increasing property values; in safeguarding and protecting our homes, playgrounds, parks, and schools from undesirable, nay at times pernicious encroachment; and in making it possible to work out an adequate and convenient transportation system between home and factory.

It will be a boon to the business world in creating most advantageous industrial districts, where water and rail can be brought together, and in connecting them with excellent transportation facilities.

A Start in Zoning

Illinois now has a good zoning law under which Mayor William Hale Thompson has appointed a Zoning Commission, with Charles Bostrom, Building Commissioner, Chairman. To lose time in carefully preparing a sane city-wide zoning ordinance would be a blunder of the first magnitude, but the work so far done indicates that no such blunder will be made.

As soon as a zoning ordinance is passed, controlling the height, use, and area of buildings; the width of streets; and the open space around residences, our building code must be revised to conform to such ordinance and the most up-to-date hygienic and sanitary requirements, thus opening the way to a solution of the vitally important housing problem.

Make This Trio Our Ideal

Let us make the trio "City Planning, Zoning, and Housing" our ideal—in the words of the creed of the Plan Commission, "dare to recognize it—keep it constantly before us—believe in it and work for it, bearing in mind all the time that it requires only sufficient community spirit and patriotism to substitute order for disorder; and reason, common sense, and action for negligence, indifference, and inertia."

An enthusiastic devotion to that trio will eliminate pessimism, doubt, and unjust criticism, negative qualities so deplorable in carrying progressive measures to fruition.

Creating Public Sentiment

How may public sentiment—indispensable to success—be won? By making people think; by convincing them that a square deal is contemplated; by dealing openly with and trusting public officials; by proving that the achievements to be accomplished are in the interests of all; and by showing conclusively that the results to be obtained are economically sound and necessary to protect and develop commerce and industry; and humanely imperative to create stronger, better, and more contented citizens.

Chicago Has a Definite Plan

Chicago is fortunate in having a definite, comprehensive Plan for its future development. Chicago knows what it needs. The people have affirmatively spoken, where necessary, by giving large majorities for bond issues, thus making it possible to proceed with twelve basic features of the Chicago Plan.

It is Chicago's bounden duty during this after-the-war period to show other cities and other states the vital importance of making needed public improvements now, not only to meet the unemployment emergency, but also to safeguard public welfare.

Our Reconstruction Platform

The Reconstruction Platform of the Chicago Plan Commission, issued in December, 1918, among other things, stated:

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